

Sarcoidosis. Ed W Jones Williams and BH Davies. (Pp xxxii + 774; illustrated; £35, \$95.) Alpha Omega Publishing Ltd. 1980.

The proceedings of the eighth international symposium on sarcoidosis and other granulomatous disease held at Cardiff in 1978 are reported in this book. It assembles 114 concise reports on all aspects of sarcoidosis under the following headings: pathology, ultrastructure, macrophages, cell kinetics, experimental models, immunology, HLA systems, diagnostic tests, angiotensin converting enzyme, physiology, radiology, bronchopulmonary lavage, immunological inhibitors, epidemiology, clinical aspects, the Kveim test, hypersensitivity granulomatous diseases, and other granulomatous diseases. Thus all disciplines are covered in this study of a multi-system disease and most readers will find something of interest. For those with a special interest in sarcoidosis this book is a 'must'. Unfortunately the editing has taken two years but the final result is an attractive and invaluable publication.

B CORRIN

Mononuclear Phagocytes. Functional Aspects. Parts I and II. Ed Ralph van Furth. (Pp 1938; illustrated; 360 guilders.) Martinus Nijhoff. 1980.

The reticuloendothelial system died in Leiden in 1969 at the hands of Ralph van Furth and from its ashes sprang the mononuclear phagocyte system. This massive two volume proceedings from the 3rd Leiden conference held in 1978 is a tribute to the vigour of this new phoenix and clearly documents its explosive growth. Nearly two thousand pages of erudite and informative papers and reviews describing the functional properties of macrophages are enclosed by very attractive covers decorated with 'The Last Judgment' by Lucas Van Leiden. This apocalyptic vision of demons hurling sinners into hell is the editor's allegorical joke concerning the role of macrophages as effector cells.

The contents are entirely comprehensive covering a bewildering range of functional attributes of these remarkable cells. The chapters are well organised. Indeed the whole splendid exercise is a tribute to its editor's vision (just short of apocalyptic) and expertise.

Until superseded by the proceedings of the fourth Leiden conference (and what a prospect that is!) these two volumes will undoubtedly become the definitive text for anyone interested in mononuclear phagocytes. The reticuloendothelial system is dead. Long live the mononuclear phagocyte system!

GA CURRIE

Recent Advances in Clinical Immunology. No 2. Ed RA Thompson. (Pp 367; illustrated; £16.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1980.

The second volume in this series comes close to satisfying most readers' conception of a book entitled 'Clinical Immunology'. Far more than the first volume this book includes information helpful for doctors involved in the management of patients with immunological disorders. Admittedly the first five chapters are concerned with elucidating the nature of immune mechanisms in disease rather than with more clinical matters. These give authoritative accounts of the immunology of the placenta, suppressor T cells, eosinophils, complement, and anti-immunoglobulins. The last eight chapters deal more truly with applied immunology and many of the topics are described for the first time, quite an achievement for a book on immunological medicine. These include immunological aspects of periodontal disease, antibodies to insulin, and assays of macrophage function. Even the chapter on allergic drug reactions is far more sophisticated than most similar texts dealing with this problem. It is also refreshing to see that plasma exchange and levamisole, both matters of practical clinical importance, are dealt with in a mature, critical fashion. In contrast with so many books on immunological medicine this volume offers the hope that the series will truly provide a service for doctors who deal with allergic diseases.

AM DENMAN

'Systemic Pathology'. 2nd ed. Vol 6 by 38 authors. Ed WStC Symmers. (Pp 472; illustrated; £42.) Churchill Livingstone. 1980.

The second edition of 'Systemic Pathology' is now complete. Volume 6 deals with the skin (300 pages), the eyes (74 pages) and a final section of 32 pages on the ears. For those who have access to Friedmann's larger work on *The Pathology*

of the Ears, and who see little ocular pathology, the section on diseases of the skin will be the most used. This is a successful section which contains information not readily available in other standard works. It is long enough to go into considerable detail about interesting rarities though the concept of fibrous histiocytoma and its variants is not described in detail. The index refers to some 200 eponymous diseases and helps to clear a way through this jungle.

The Editor asks for more constructive criticism in his preface to this final volume. Descriptive histopathology is very much a combination of words and pictures and there are still too many photomicrographs that are separated from their text. These should be on the same page as the text, or on the facing page. Photographs of one disease within the text of another are confusing. A shorter production time would permit the inclusion of more recent references. More tabulated and classified information would help to reduce the increasing length of the text and would be useful in many subjects such as the blistering diseases of the skin; the epidemiology of diseases, and the prognosis of tumours can also be clearly expressed as tables or graphs. There are six separate indices and a multisystem disease such as sarcoidosis has 120 index entries spread throughout all six of them; the reward for buying six volumes should be a cumulative index. Finally, in order to come to terms with the problems of increasing size and cost, can the third edition be less than 5,000 pages or cost much less than a £1,000? It must be asked whether it is desirable to continue to have sections by authors who have already written similar texts which are on our shelves. The last words must be those of congratulations to the authors and the editor. This is an overall excellent work which we can all feel proud to own and use.

RAB DRURY

Progress in Clinical Immunology. Vol 4. Ed RS Schwarz. (Pp 179; illustrated; \$23.50.) Grune and Stratton, Inc. 1980.

Given the number of new books on immunological topics it is reasonable to judge these by looking fairly stringently at the claims of the authors or editors. Does this book describe improvements in the science or application of immunology which are likely to help in the management of immune disorders in clinical practice? The first chapter nicely catalogues the